गृहों की स्थापना के लिए तथा कार्यकर्त्ताओं के प्रशिक्षण के लिए केन्द्रीय और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा समान अंशदान के आधार पर अनुदान के रूप मे वित्तीय सहायता दी जाती है ।

(ग) जी, नहीं ।

(घ) प्रश्न नही उठता ।

Waiving of Loans and Taxes of Farmers

811. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any guidelines to the State Governments for waiving of loans and taxes on the farmers in view of the grave drought conditions in the country, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENNDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) As a policy, the Government of India are not in favour of any measures involving write off/waiver of loans and taxes on the farmers, as these tend to vitiate the climate of recovery, encourage wilful default and undermine the viability of credit institutions. However, there are inbuilt provisions under the existing institutional arrangements for conversion/re-sechedulement of loans in the event of crop failure due to natural calamities like drought. In addition, Government of India have introduced a comprehensive crop insurance scheme with a view to provide relief to the loanee farmers in the event of natural calamities. Due to failure of monsoon and consequent severe drought conditions, NABARD has advised the co-operative/commercial banks to extend necessary assistance to the affected borrowers in various States in raising alternate short duration crops, wherever feasible. Further, small farmers having default upto 20 per cent of eligibility could now be considered as eligible for fresh finance.

Mini Steel Plants in U.P.

812. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mini steel plants functioning in Uttar Pradesh at present and how many are lying idle; and

(b) whether Government have made any assessment on the functioning of mini steel plants in U.P., if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M L. FOTEDAR): (a) 26 mini-steel plants with a capacity of 5.43 lakh tonnes per annum are installed in Uttar Pradesh. As per the latest report, three of these units are lying closed.

(b) No, Sir.

Drought relief to Karnataka

813. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Drought withers crops in Karnataka" as reported in the Indian Express dated 26th August, 1987;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have given any kind of help to the Karnataka Government to meet the drought situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In response to the memorandum submitted by the State Government for drought relief, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 34.07 crores has been approved for relief measures for 1987 drought. In addition, a sum of Rs. 12.50 crores and Rs. 6.75 lakhs has also been approved for completion